

PRACTICE EXERCISE 1

Read the text and complete each blank with **ONE** suitable word from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided on the next page. Each word can only be used **ONCE**. There are **FIVE** words that you will not use. Item 0 is an example.

CAN THE NUMBER OF SMOKERS IN THE UK BE REDUCED TO ONE IN 10 BY 2020?

Why are we asking this now?

Yesterday the Government announced a 10-year strategy to **halve** (0) the number of smokers from 21 per cent to 10 per cent of the population by 2020. That means persuading four of the eight million current smokers to give up, or avoid starting, the habit. The number has fallen by a quarter in the last decade and 337,000 stopped in the last year. _____ (1) by this success, ministers are determined to follow it with a series of new measures that will make smoking less attractive.

Maybe it is _____ (2) to the renowned English sense of reserve but why is it always the non-smoker, the one who has committed no intrusion that has to quietly get up and move when someone next to them lights up? For years _____ (3) non-smokers have had to endure the unpleasant inhaling of stale cigarette smoke or coming home smelling like the inside of a dirty ash tray and for those people that have to work under these conditions, in bars or restaurants, the situation is even more exacerbated, as they have no escape.

How will the target be achieved?

_____ (4) general astonishment, the 2007 law _____ (5) smoking in public places was _____ (6) with hardly a murmur of protest. Ministers had feared outbreaks of civil disobedience, in pubs, as smokers found themselves unable to enjoy a ciggie with their pint unless they were prepared to brave the weather outside. Having _____ (7) that hurdle, ministers now want to take the ban a stage further – by removing smokers from the entrances to buildings.

What other measures are planned?

Those scary pictures of lungs riddled with cancer that have recently been emblazoned _____ (8) cigarette packets may disappear. In their place will be – plain brown paper. Ministers are considering _____ (9) all cigarettes of their distinctive packaging to reduce their appeal. The use of tobacco vending machines may also be banned. A crackdown on cheap illicit cigarettes will see extra customs officers deployed overseas to _____ (10) the smuggling of tobacco. _____ (11), there will be extra NHS support for those who want to quit.

Why should any of this discourage smokers?

Because most smokers would like to stop. Seven out of 10 say they want to give up. The Government has _____ (12) that every smoker, no matter what level _____ (13) addiction is, will be able to get help from the NHS if requested. It acknowledges that some smokers need longer-term support and treatment, but it says that is better than continuing to smoke.

How much damage does tobacco do?

Smoking kills half of _____ (14) lifelong smokers. The toll from tobacco was 227 people a day in England in 2007 – equivalent to an airliner crashing every 24 hours – and caused 1,200 daily hospital admissions. That is _____ (15) the huge fall in smoking in recent decades. A quarter of the patients had cancer, with the remainder divided between heart and respiratory conditions. The cost to the NHS was £2.7bn.

Does everybody agree?

Deborah Arnott of Action on Smoking and Health said these measures provided a solid foundation but there were still gaps which left people, especially children, _____ (16) risk from second hand smoke.

Christopher Ogden, chief executive of the Tobacco Manufacturer's Association said: The plans will do nothing to _____ (17) public health policy objectives but will instead impose further unwarranted restrictions on legitimate businesses and private citizens alike.

_____ (18) there any good news?

Yes. Smoking has been declining for 50 years. Latest figures show 21 per cent of adults smoked, down from 39 per cent in 1980 and from 80 per cent (among men) in the 1950s. Over the past decade, smoking has fallen a fifth among adults _____ (19) smoking among 11-15 year olds has halved. There are now 2.1 million fewer smokers than 10 years ago and this has reduced the cost to the NHS _____ (20) nearly £380 million pounds a year. Deaths are declining, as more people give up, or never start. Deaths are down 14 per cent since 2001. The UK's ultimate goal is to successfully stamp out smoking once and for all.

ALL	DESPITE	INTRODUCED	MEET	STRIPPING
ARE	DOWN	IS	NOW	TACKLE
AT	EMBOLDENED	ITS	ON	THEIR
ATTACK	HALVE	LASTLY	OVERCOME	TO
BANNING	IN	LATELY	PLEDGED	WHILE
BY				

Write your answers here:

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PRACTICE EXERCISE 2

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WHY DO WE TRAVEL?

It has long been said that travel **broadens** (0) the mind. Now new _____ (1) suggests that jumping on a plane will not only make you smarter, but more open-minded and creative.

It's 4.15 in the morning and my alarm clock has just stolen away a lovely dream. My eyes are open but my pupils are still closed, so all I see is gauzy darkness. For a brief moment, I manage to convince myself that my wakefulness is a mistake, and that I can safely go back to sleep. But then I roll _____ (2) and see my zippered suitcase. I _____ (3) out a sleepy groan: I'm going to the airport.

The taxi is late. _____ (4) should be an adjective (a synonym of sober, _____ (5) worse) to describe the state of mind that comes from waiting in the orange glare of a streetlight before drinking a cup of coffee. And then the taxi gets lost. And then I get nervous, because my flight leaves in an hour. And then we're here, and I'm hurtled into the harsh incandescence of Terminal B, running with a suitcase so I can wait in a long security line. My belt buckle _____ (6) off the metal detector, my 120ml _____ (7) of deodorant is confiscated, and my left sock has a gaping hole.

And then I get to the gate. By now you can probably guess the punchline of this very banal story: my flight has been cancelled. I will be _____ (8) in this terminal for the next 218 minutes, my only consolation a cup of caffeine and a McGriddle sandwich. And then I will miss my connecting flight and wait, in a different city, with the same menu, for another plane. And then, 14 hours _____ (9), I'll be there.

Why do we travel? It's not the flying I mind – I will always be awed by the _____ (10) that gets a fat metal bird into the upper troposphere. The rest of the _____ (11), however, can feel like a tedious lesson in the ills of modernity, from the pre-dawn X-ray _____ (12) to the sad airport malls peddling crappy souvenirs. It's globalisation in a _____ (13), and it sucks.

And _____ (14) here we are, herded in ever greater numbers on to planes that _____ (15) the same size. Sometimes we travel because we have to. Because in this digital age there is still something important about the analogue handshake. Or eating Mum's turkey at Christmas.

But most travel isn't non-negotiable. (In 2008 only 30% of trips over 50 miles were made for business.) Instead we travel because we want to, _____ (16) the annoyances of the airport are outweighed by the visceral thrill of being someplace new. Because work is stressful and our blood pressure is _____ (17) too high and we need a vacation. Because home is _____ (18). Because the flights were on sale. Because New York is New York.

Travel, in other words, is a basic human desire. We're a migratory species, even if our migrations are powered by jet fuel and Chicken McNuggets. But here's my question: is this collective urge to travel – to put some distance between ourselves and everything we know – still a _____ (19) compulsion? Or is it like the taste _____ (20) saturated fat: one of those instincts we should have left behind in the Pleistocene epoch? Because if travel is just about fun, then I think the new security measures at airports have killed it.

AFTER	JOURNEY	STAY
ALREADY	LATER	STICK
BECAUSE	LET	STUCK
BORING	NUTSHELL	THERE
BROADENS	ONLY	TRAVEL
DESPITE	OVER	WAY
EVIDENCE	PHYSICS	WORTHWHILE
FOR	SCREENING	YET
IT	SETS	

Write your answers here:

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PRACTICE EXERCISE 3

Read the text and complete each blank with **ONE** suitable word from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided on the next page. Each word can only be used **ONCE**. There are **FIVE** words that you will not use. Item 0 is an example.

FEEL THE FORCE!

"May (0) the force be with you!"

The most recent census of the British population revealed that the fourth-_____ (1) religion in Britain – with 390,000 followers – is Jediism. That is Jediism as in the film *Star Wars*. When I first heard this, I thought it must be some kind of joke, and indeed on closer inspection _____ (2) revealed that the figures had been inflated by the circulation of a _____ (3) e-mail, which claimed that if 10,000 people identified themselves as Jedis on the census _____ (4), the “faith” would be officially recognised as a legal religion. However, _____ (5) a search on the Internet uncovers over 35,000 hits and several of the sites dedicated to “believers” seem to be fairly serious. One of them, for example, states that “many religions started with a scripture. Jedi’s just _____ (6) to be written on a script of celluloid. Like all religions, we should be judging it on _____ (7) merits and relevance to our own lives rather than by the medium by which it is conveyed.”

For others Jediism sounds more like a *Star War*-ish form of Taoism than a separate belief system. These are not far _____ (8) when they think so. In fact, the director and writer George Lucas used a mixture of ancient and pagan myths to create his new fictional religion. _____ (9) this has been actually adopted by some people is perhaps not that surprising, as a similar kind of pick ‘n’ _____ (10) belief system appears to be becoming increasingly prevalent. People pick and choose aspects of different religions and customs. _____ (11) many people still like to be baptised, get married _____ (12) church and have a religious funeral with prayers and hymns, relatively few _____ (13) bother to attend church on any kind of regular basis – except for a nice sing-_____ (14) at the Christmas carol service. Furthermore, among these people you’re _____ (15) to find a few who dabble in a bit of meditation and Buddhism or have environmental beliefs that verge _____ (16) animism!

It may also seem ironic that a science fiction film should spawn this kind of anti-scientific thinking, but again this kind of confusion is everywhere. Churchgoing in Britain has been in decline _____ (17) in part to the rise of science and technology, and yet at

the very same time there has been an explosion of interest in all kinds of beliefs which have, at _____ (18), only a tenuous scientific basis: taking large amounts of vitamin supplements to stave off colds, carrying crystals to boost your confidence, having horoscope readings _____ (19), feng shuiing your home, believing in crop circles and alien abductions, to name but a few. It seems as if we almost need some kind of faith as humans. Feeling bereft and lost without a religion, many turn to the _____ (20) more commercial battery of self-help books which promise to “transform your life”. While many of these use pseudoscientific language, you nevertheless need faith to believe they really will work.

ACTUALLY	HAPPENED	MIX
ALONG	IN	OFF
BEST	IT	ON
BY	ITS	POPULAR
CHAIN	LARGEST	RATHER
DOING	LEAST	THAT
DONE	LIKELY	THE
DUE	MADE	WHILE
FORM	MAY	

Write your answers here:

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PRACTICE EXERCISE 4

Read the text and complete each blank with **ONE** suitable word from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided on the next page. Each word can only be used **ONCE**. There are **FIVE** words that you will not use. Item 0 is an example.

The generation of Windsors who emerged stiffly in wintry clothes at the end of their austerity cruise in the Western Isles last week were regarded **as** (0) quaint, but the Royal Family is evidently a model for the future. _____ (1) is a doughty matriarch of 84, working full time and supporting many _____ (2); a son kept out of a job because there is no longer a retirement age to create a _____ (3); anxiety about members of the extended family who are on _____ (4), since tax-payers' tolerance of subsidy is _____ (5) low; a young prince who keeps trying to push back his wedding day because the _____ (6) of 27 years being single to 72 years or so of married life is hard to _____ (7).

Most of the discussion about an increase in life _____ (8) has been about work and pensions. There is not enough in _____ (9) our own or national pension pots to pay for extended retirement, so we are going to have to work _____ (10). The Prime Minister suggested last week that 80 was a more realistic retirement age. But there is a deeper question than how we shall make ends _____ (11), which is whether we begin to live our lives differently once we expect to have an extra 20 years. _____ (12), we must learn another rhythm, a longer perspective. There is suddenly a multitude of possibilities and _____ (13) reasons for regret. Lost time can be regained.

For generations, women churned out six children by their twenties. Now, responding to a different time frame and in an age where many women regard their bodies as their _____ (14), they wait until their thirties. The tensions of working motherhood will evaporate _____ (15) women start entering the job market post children. Perhaps we shall achieve a work/life balance _____ (16) spending 16 years raising children and then 50 years at work.

If we are going to live to Old Testament ages, we can eke out the landmarks of our life, or _____ (17) repeat them or, most wondrously, believe that life has a third act. _____ (18) we should be looking to, of course, are unexplored horizons. The great accomplishment we will _____ (19) have to learn is patience. The third act may be a

reprise of the _____ (20), but who says we can't write in a crescendo? In the new world, forties is late adolescence, 60 is middle age. Even in our nineties, we need not be skeletal and enfeebled: we can be PD James.

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ALL	FIRST	RATIO
AS	IT	SURELY
BENEFITS	LEAST	SWALLOW
BY	LONGER	THEM
DEPENDANTS	MEET	THERE
EITHER	NUMBER	VACANCY
ELSE	ONCE	WHAT
EXPECTANCY	OWN	WHICH
FEWER	PERILOUSLY	

Write your answers here:

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PRACTICE EXERCISE 5

Read the text and complete each blank with **ONE** suitable word from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided on the next page. Each word can only be used **ONCE**. There are **FOUR** words that you will not use. Item 0 is an example.

“There are four tongues **worthy** (0) of the world’s use,” says the Talmud: “Greek for song, Latin for war, Syriac for lamentation, and Hebrew for ordinary _____ (1).” Other authorities have been no less decided in their judgment on what different languages are good for. The Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, master of several European tongues, professed to _____ (2) “Spanish to God, Italian to women, French to men, and German to my horse. “The American Ralph Waldo Emerson summed it all up in 1844. In short, “the genius of a nation is nowhere better revealed than in the physiognomy of its speech.”

A nation’s language, _____ (3) we are often told, reflects its culture, psyche, and modes of thought. Peoples in tropical climes are so laid-back _____ (4) is no wonder they let most of their consonants fall by the wayside. And one needs _____ (5) compare the mellow sounds of Portuguese with the harshness of Spanish to understand the quintessential difference between these two neighbouring cultures. The grammar of some languages is simply not logical enough to express complex ideas. German, on the other hand, as a particularly _____ (6) language, is an ideal vehicle for formulating the most precise philosophical profundities, _____ (7) is why the Germans have _____ (8) humourless minds. Some languages don’t have a future tense, so their speakers naturally have no _____ (9) of the future. The Babylonians would have been hard-_____ (10) to understand *Crime and Punishment*, because their language used one and the same word to describe both of these concepts. French is not only a Romance language but the language of romance par excellence. English is an adaptable, or _____ (11) promiscuous language, and Italian—ah, Italian!

Many a dinner table conversation is embellished by such vignettes, _____ (12) few subjects lend themselves more readily to disquisition than the character of different languages and their speakers. _____ (13) most foreigners cannot hear the difference between rugged Norwegian and the endless plains of Swedish. And if Germans _____ (14) have systematic minds, this is just as _____ (15) to be because their exceedingly erratic mother tongue has exhausted their brains’ capacity to cope with any _____ (16) irregularity. English speakers can _____ (17) lengthy conversations about forthcoming events wholly in the present tense (I’m flying to Vancouver next week ...) without

any detectable loosening in their grip on the concepts of futurity. No language — not even _____ (18) of the most “primitive” tribes — is inherently unsuitable for expressing the most complex ideas. Any shortcomings in a language’s ability to philosophize simply boil down to the _____ (19) of some specialized abstract vocabulary and perhaps a few syntactic constructions, but _____ (20) can easily be borrowed, just as all European languages pinched their verbal philosophical tool kit from Latin, which in turn lifted it wholesale from Greek.

DO	LIKELY	THAT
EVEN	MUCH	THESE
FOR	ONLY	USED
FURTHER	ORDERLY	WHAT
GRASP	PRESSED	WHICH
HOLD	SO	WORTHY
IT	SPEAKING	YET
LACK	SPEECH	
LEARNT	SUCH	

Write your answers here:

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PRACTICE EXERCISE 6

Read the text and complete each blank with **ONE** suitable word from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided on the next page. Each word can only be used **ONCE**. There are **FIVE** words that you will not use. Item 0 is an example.

ABORTION AND THE LAW: SAFE, LEGAL AND FALLING

Restrictive (0) laws do not reduce abortion.

When Catholic clergy or “pro-life” politicians argue that abortion laws should be tightened, they do _____ (1) in the belief that this will reduce the number of terminations. Yet the largest global study of abortion _____ (2) undertaken casts doubt on that simple proposition. _____ (3) abortions, the study says, has little effect on the number of pregnancies terminated. Rather, it drives women to seek illegal, often unsafe backstreet abortions _____ (4) to an estimated 67,000 deaths a year. A _____ (5) 5m women require hospital treatment as a result of botched procedures.

In Africa and Asia, where abortion is generally either illegal or restricted, the abortion rate in 2003 (the _____ (6) year for which figures are available) was 29 per 1,000 women aged 15-44. This is almost identical to the rate in Europe – 28 – where legal abortions are _____ (7) available. Latin America, which has some of the world’s most restrictive abortion laws, is the region with the highest abortion rate – 31, _____ (8) western Europe, which has some of the most liberal laws, has the lowest. The study, _____ (9) out by the Guttmacher Institute in New York in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and published in a British medical journal, the *Lancet*, _____ (10) that most abortions occur in developing countries – 35m a year, _____ (11) with just 7m in rich countries. But this was largely a reflection of population size. A woman’s _____ (12) of having an abortion is similar _____ (13) she lives in a rich country (26 per 1,000) or a poor or middle-income one (29 per 1,000).

Lest it be _____ (14) that these sweeping continental numbers hide as much as they reveal, the same point can be made by looking at _____ (15) countries which have changed their laws. Between 1995 and 2005, while 17 nations liberalised abortion legislation, three _____ (16) restrictions. The number of induced abortions _____ (17) declined from nearly 46m in 1995 to 42m in 2003, _____ (18) in a fall in the worldwide abortion rate from 35 to 29. The most dramatic drop – from 90 to

44 – was in _____ (19) communist Eastern Europe, where abortion is generally legal, safe and cheap. This coincided with a big increase in contraceptive use in the region which _____ (20) has the world’s highest abortion rate, with more terminations than live births.

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CARRIED	LIKELY	THESE
COMPARED	NEVERTHELESS	THOSE
EVER	PREVIOUS	THOUGHT
FORMER	RESTRICTED	TIGHTENED
FOUND	RESTRICTING	TOGETHER
FURTHER	RESTRICTIVE	WHETHER
LATEST	RESULTING	WHILE
LEADING	SO	WIDELY
LIKELIHOOD	STILL	

Write your answers here:

0.	RESTRICTIVE
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PRACTICE EXERCISE 7

Read the text and complete each blank with **ONE** suitable word from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided on the next page. Each word can only be used **ONCE**. There are **FIVE** words that you will not use. Item 0 is an example.

One of the great things about living in America is that you get to come back to Britain as a tourist. When we do, Judy and I have a very tourist-**board** (0) experience. We love places like the Northumberland coast and towns such as Ludlow or the village of Abbey Dore. They might be clichés, but they are very real and it's not their _____ (1) that they are pretty and wonderful.

We visited Northumberland and we liked it so much we went again the following year. Then a strange thing happened. I finally met my real father, who was a Canadian airman – I was a classic war baby- and he told me that our family had once owned Bamburgh, from the 6th century to 1016. I met the _____ (2) owner about five years ago and told him it had been _____ (3) from us and if he had a shred of _____ (4), he'd return it at once. He asked me if I'd like to see the heating bills and I decided he could keep it.

I _____ (5) travel to explore the locations for the books. I went to India to research the three Sharpe novels that are set there. I was a little apprehensive. I don't like hot places. My wife _____ (6). We arrive somewhere where it's 40°C and 100% humidity and she will say, "This is pleasant", while I'm _____ (7). We go to Nova Scotia and I will take my jacket off and say, "This is bracing", while she piles the layers _____ (8).

But India was so wonderful. Gawilghur, in central India, is pretty hard to reach, but _____ (9) the effort. It's a fantastic fortress on a precipitous hill, completely deserted and _____ (10), with monkeys chasing around. There was a 22ft _____ (11) lying there, too heavy to move. It's quite an effort to climb the hill in the heat- you marvel _____ (12) how the hell the British soldiers in their wool coats and carrying muskets could charge up the slope while people were trying to kill them.

I think my favourite holiday was crossing the Atlantic in a friend's 38ft ketch*. Judy doesn't like _____ (13) saying that, she wonders how it _____ (14) have been my favourite without her. She sometimes wishes she had been there, but then I remind her that the lavatory broke and we had to use the same as Columbus _____ (15) – an en-suite bucket – and she's sort of glad she missed it.

It was something I had always wanted to do, and to be alone on a totally calm sea at sunrise was everything I'd hoped _____ (16). In a way, you don't want it to end – I found I almost _____ (17) the sight of land, because it meant real life was going to intrude.

Travelling Americans often think every minute has to be filled with something educational. There is always a gallery, a museum, a church, a ruin. I love Italy and my ideal is to find a nice restaurant and order a good lunch and a bottle of wine. My friends _____ (18), go off to

the Uffizi with 50,000 other people. They get back hot, grumpy and sweaty but feel very moral and worthy. I feel neither, but very content and relaxed.

We also go to Ireland a lot. Belfast is a beguiling city, with fantastic people. But I _____ (19) the English disease and fell in love with Ireland as a whole. I think I'm rarely happier than standing on the cliff edge at Donegal _____ (20) the rain comes in off the Atlantic. Wild, cold and beautiful. Judy would rather be in a sauna in Kuala Lumpur, but I'm in my element.

**ketch*: a sailing boat with two masts

AT	DOES	OVERGROWN
BOARD	FAULT	RESENTED
CANNON	FOR	STOLEN
CAUGHT	FREEZING	TO
COULD	ME	WE
CURRENT	MEANWHILE	WHILE
DECENCY	MELTING	WORTH
DID	MISSED	YES
DO	ON	

Write your answers here:

0.	BOARD
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PRACTICE EXERCISE 8

Read the text and complete each blank with **ONE** suitable word from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided on the next page. Each word can only be used **ONCE**. There are **FOUR** words that you will not use. Item 0 is an example.

THE INTERNET MOUSETRAP

Mousetraps work because mice generally establish a food-seeking route within ten feet of where they are. Place a trap in its vicinity, and **chances** (0) are very good that you'll catch your mouse.

Most of us are pretty _____ (1) in our daily lives: we do the same thing over and over again. Likewise, our Internet habits are hard to _____ (2). But varying your path online _____ (3) increases your likelihood of encountering new ideas and people. Just by _____ (4) your interests in new directions, you enlarge your sense of the world. Going off the _____ (5) track is scary at first, but the experiences make us feel human.

_____ (6), the code at the heart of the new Internet looks at what you seem to like and tries to extrapolate, constantly creating and refining a new _____ (7) of who you are. Left to their own devices, these filters serve up a kind of invisible autopropaganda, _____ (8) less room for the chance encounters that bring insight and _____ (9).

Online filters are more or less unavoidable, and opting _____ (10) entirely is not a particularly viable route for most of us. A better _____ (11) is to choose to use sites that give users more control _____ (12) how their filters work and how they use your personal information.

For example, consider the difference between Twitter and Facebook. Twitter is less susceptible to what we may call "the tyranny of the default", as it is based on a thin _____ (13) of regulation: unless you _____ (14) out of your way to lock your account, everything you do is public to everyone. In short, it makes _____ (15) pretty straightforward to manage your filter. In _____ (16), the rules that govern Facebook's information universe are maddeningly opaque, so you may have different types of content _____ (17) up at different rates.

There's great power in setting the default option, which can be clearly illustrated with real statistics on organ donation rates in different countries. In England the rates hover around 10 to 15 percent, but in France they are in the high 90s. Why? In the first country, you have to tick a box for your organs _____ (18) be donated. In the second, you have to state that you _____ (19) give permission. If we will _____ (20) defaults determine the fate of friends who need lungs and hearts, it is no wonder we don't worry about how we share information.

APPROACH	IT	THEORY
BEATEN	LAYER	TO
BREAK	LEARNING	UNFORTUNATELY
CHANCES	LET	WHICH
COMPARISON	MOUSELIKE	WILL
DRAMATICALLY	OUT	WITH
GET	OVER	WON'T
GO	SHOWING	
HARDLY	STRETCHING	

Write your answers here:

0.	CHANCES
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PRACTICE EXERCISE 9

Read the text and complete each blank with **ONE** suitable word from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided on the next page. Each word can only be used **ONCE**. There are **FIVE** words that you will not use. Item 0 is an example.

David Cameron **appeased** the nation's eurosceptics recently by saying that at some point in the next parliament _____ (1) might possibly be a referendum on whether Britain stayed in the European Union.

Isolationism is very popular at the moment. Not just with middle England but with the Scotch, too, and the Corns – everyone. If you gave people in Leicester the chance to form their own government and their own state, I bet you any money a majority would say, “Ooh, yes _____ (2).”

Certainly the idea of Chipping Norton breaking free from Westminster and Brussels is very _____ (3). There is little crime, so we wouldn't need a police force. Or an army. Many people own guns, so we'd easily be able to hold out _____ (4) we be attacked by Stow-on-the-Wold. We have meat, trout and vegetables. And we have wind for power. Taxes would be very low, _____ (5) we would only really need a school, two doctors and the fire station. And we could introduce some new laws relevant to our way of life. We could make _____ (6) illegal to own a badger. Bell ringing would be outlawed, too, along with motorcycles. On the face of it, then, life would be peachy.

To understand where all of this might end, you need to go back to the 1850s in _____ (7) at the time was known as “darkest Africa”. British explorers stumbled on a tribe living on the tranquil northern shores of Lake Victoria. People had been living there for tens of thousands of years, assuming that they were the only people on earth. They had never met anyone from another tribe, let _____ (8) an Arab or a white man. And it was interesting to see how their society had developed.

They had not invented the wheel or the plough. But they had invented beer. And they could carry it around in vessels woven _____ (9) from reeds. They also had fine cloth and knew to wash their hands in the lake before eating. They had also come up _____ (10) extreme violence. Whenever a child made too much noise over lunch, it _____ (11) be beheaded. Beheading was their society's _____ (12) of the thinking corner. It was also a cure for snoring, nagging or looking at someone in a funny way.

Now remember, this was the middle of the 19th century. _____ (13) in the world there were steam engines and ladies with parasols taking tea in the park. People in Louisiana drank tea from Ceylon. And yet in the middle of it all was a civilization in _____ (14) you could be beheaded for talking with your mouth full. What stopped it was the arrival of other people. People who said, “Yes, cutting your daughter's head _____ (15) is certainly a way of teaching her not to use her fingers at meal times. But have you tried a stern word? Or a smacked bottom, because where we come from that works quite well.

This argument is still _____ (16) today. What do you think stops American police forces waterboarding pretty much everyone they take into custody? The answer has nothing to _____ (17) with the inner goodness of man's soul. It's the sure-fire knowledge that other people are watching.

Most governments in the civilized world are _____ (18) bound by checks and balances to ensure they don't do something idiotic. And what are those checks and balances? They usually have _____ (19) names but, actually, they all boil down to the same thing: other people.

We need to be in Europe, to trade with the Germans and holiday in France. We need to be Spain's checks and Sweden's balances. For the _____ (20) of decency and the advancement of science, we need to share ideas, to compromise, to be a team. We need to look after one another.

ALONE	IT	SYNONYMOUS
APPEALING	OFF	THANKS
APPEASED	OUT	THERE
CONSTITUTIONALLY	PLEASE	WHAT
DO	RELEVANT	WHEREVER
ELSEWHERE	SAKE	WHICH
EQUIVALENT	SEE	WITH
EXQUISITELY	SHOULD	WOULD
FANCY	SINCE	

Write your answers here:

0.	APPEASED
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PRACTICE EXERCISE 10

Read the text and complete each blank with **ONE** suitable word from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided on the next page. Each word can only be used **ONCE**. There are **FIVE** words that you will not use. Item 0 is an example.

Cars will **soon** (0) be _____ (1) linked into wireless networks that they will be like giant rolling smartphones – with calling systems, streaming video, cameras and applications _____ (2) of processing the unprecedented trove of data that vehicles will produce about themselves and the humans who drive them. The battle _____ (3) who can access all this data is an awkward undercurrent amid recent announcements by car manufacturers advertising their new vehicle systems.

Low on fuel? Soon a petrol station app may know before you do. Ready for a lunch break? Your car can make a reasonable _____ (4) based on the hour. This savvy software may soon use additional detail, – such as _____ (5) the person in the back seat is watching a Disney film –, in deciding to offer an advertisement featuring a Happy Meal and _____ (6) to the nearest McDonalds.

In the US, new safety rules will require all new cars _____ (7) 2014 to come equipped with so-called “black boxes” to save vehicle information from the final seconds before and after crashes. _____ (8) some vehicle computer systems already on the road offer the potential for monitoring driver behaviour to a far greater extent than black boxes do.

In 2017, more than 60% of vehicles worldwide might be connected directly to the internet, up from 11% last year. In North America and Europe, _____ (9) is likely to reach 80%. Indeed, cars have long _____ (10) data to monitor safety and performance. But their newfound connectivity may _____ (11) a range of parties – car manufacturers, software developers, perhaps even police officers – access to more such information, privacy advocates say. (Some insurers already monitor driving behaviour in exchange _____ (12) discounted rates.)

According to John Ellis, a Ford technologist who demonstrated some of the new systems at the company's _____ (13) at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona “the technology is advancing so _____ (14) faster than legislation... What can governments do? What can you do?” _____ (15) issues go beyond vehicles.

Ford's internet system relies on a user's smartphone to connect with wireless services. This integration means that some vehicle data can be made _____ (16) to developers through an open internet platform. Then, the privacy policies of app makers will govern how an individual's personal information can be used. Ellis said: “We assume that you're comfortable with _____ (17) policy that app has.”

A PR executive from General Motors said one possible _____ (18) would alert owners by text message if their cars are bumped or hit. Owners might then be able to activate the exterior cameras for immediate visual reconnaissance.

He added that they would protect customers' privacy, even _____ (19) the volume of data increases: "We have that data. We're just not prepared to _____ (20) it to third parties." But experts claim that in the absence of strong national privacy laws, valuable information will often leak out.

ABLE	FEATURE	SOON
ALLOW	FOR	SUCH
AS	GATHERED	THAT
AVAILABLE	GUESS	WHATEVER
BROUGHT	LONG	WHETHER
BY	MUCH	WHICH
CAPABLE	OVER	WITH
DIRECTIONS	RELEASE	YET
DISPLAY	SO	

Write your answers here:

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PRACTICE EXERCISE 1 1

Read the text and complete each blank with **ONE** suitable word from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided on the next page. Each word can only be used **ONCE**. There are **FIVE** words that you will not use. Item 0 is an example.

Sainsbury's Christmas ad is a dangerous and disrespectful masterpiece

There (0) is no disputing that the ad is, on its own terms, a masterpiece. The cinematography is breathtaking. The simple narrative, built around the near-mythical Christmas truce between the trenches of 1914, has just the right blend of poignancy and sentimentality. So why does it leave me feeling so unsettled, so uncomfortable, even a touch nauseous?

Perhaps the greatest cliché about the First World War is that nobody _____ (1) really understood what it was _____ (2) about, or why it happened. _____ (3) in the trenches never understood what they were giving their lives for, beyond a vague commitment to king and country. The sheer futility of the slaughter is what makes the recounting of this cautionary _____ (4) so heartbreaking to this day.

Of course many film-makers and writers have made good money from representing the horrors of war. But there is a _____ (5) difference, I would suggest, between selling war as a product, and using it as a _____ (6) to another end.

In helping to launch the ad today, an Army officer praised the film's historical accuracy. _____ (7) true can this be? While there were certainly _____ (8) conditions on the frontline from place to place and year to year, reading contemporary accounts from _____ (9) side of the trenches, in the poetry of Owen or the prose of Remarque, the details that _____ (10) in the mind are horrific. _____ (11) in the new advert do we see the blood and entrails, the vomit and faeces, the rats feasting on body parts. The response might be "well they can _____ (12) put that in a Christmas advert can they?" and that would be true. Which is why the scene is _____ (13) inappropriate for a Christmas advert in the first _____ (14).

The trench warfare of 1914-18 sits near the top of the list of man-made horrors: _____ (15) close to 40 million young men were killed, lost or mutilated in the First World War. Although it has recently slipped out of the range of _____ (16) memory, it remains an iconic scar. Like the Nazi Holocaust or the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan, it _____ (17) on as a vivid phantom in our culture, a constant reminder of our capacity to inflict incomprehensible degrees of _____ (18) upon innocent individuals. That's why we should retain those deaths with respect and a degree of

reverence. Would we _____ (19) an advert next Christmas showing a touching little scene between a Jewish child and a disabled child in Auschwitz, swapping gifts for Christmas and Hanukah on their way to the gas chambers? I would hope not, yet I _____ (20) to see any great moral difference.

Exploiting the First World War for commercial gain is tasteless. The film-makers here have done something to that war which is perhaps the most dangerous and disrespectful act of all: they have made it beautiful.

ALL	KEY	STICK
BOTH	LAST	SUFFERING
BUT	LIVES	TALE
EITHER	LIVING	THERE
ENTIRELY	MEANS	THOSE
EVER	NOT	VARYING
FAIL	NOWHERE	WELCOME
HARDLY	PLACE	WHAT
HOW	SOMEWHERE	

Write your answers here:

0.	THERE
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PRACTICE EXERCISE 12

Read the text and complete each blank with **ONE** suitable word from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided on the next page. Each word can only be used **ONCE**. There are **FIVE** words that you will not use. Item 0 is an example.

Forget the anxiety over presents and whether the turkey will be cooked. If there is one thing I **dread** (0) at Christmas, it is the human tragicomedy of the relatives: wildly disparate human specimens, linked by accident of birth or marriage, having to keep up a polite conversation _____ (1) the Brussels sprouts and mince pies.

_____ (2) my Irish brother-in-law, Tarquin. A lovely man, but polite conversation? He doesn't do conversation, _____ (3) alone polite. He can no more make small talk _____ (4) he can slide down a chimney. He doesn't feel Christmas lunch has started until he has muscled up a good argument, preferably about religion. Typically, he will bide his _____ (5), wait until everyone has been served, then lob a hand grenade into the conversation. _____ (6), last year, Tarquin's opening gambit was: "Of course anyone who thinks the son of God was born in a stable in Bethlehem needs _____ (7) head examined".

My mother pretended not to hear. My aunt asked loudly if anyone wanted more bread sauce. My sister _____ (8) daggers at her husband and I think started kicking him under the table. Tarquin looked aggrieved, took a gulp of claret, then _____ (9). "Of course, I am not saying there were no stables in Bethlehem, or that a young woman called Mary..." My daughter, who is studying theology at Oxford, rose _____ (10) to the bait. "How can you be so cynical? What if..." At this point, like every year, Tarquin _____ (11) grin. He has got his argument. And this is Christmas lunch done and dusted for another year.

Similar scenes unfold in every household in the land. It's stress in its purest form. Members of the same family often share a surname and not much _____ (12). They are closer to their friends than they are to their relatives. And as family ties are loosened by divorce and one celebration becomes a string of family Christmases, is it _____ (13) wonder that nerves start to fray? The season of good will can turn into the season of bad will quicker than it takes to pull a cracker.

As a _____ (14) I know from experience that keeping everyone happy is a nightmare. I feel obliged to make an effort because that is the spirit of Christmas. Everyone has to be included. But it is a much harder trick to pull _____ (15) in a semi in the suburbs than in a stable in Bethlehem. Good intentions often fail in a morass of administrative detail. How many labellers of presents _____ (16) to remember how their eight-year-old niece spells her name? Or even what her name is? How many carnivorous hostesses spend December fretting what they are going to give their vegetarian relatives on their annual pilgrimage to their homes?

One of my most _____ (17) remembered Christmases featured my late aunt Victoria, a woman with the rectitude of her namesake. It had been rumoured that she had been writing a novel, but none of us _____ (18) believed it. Then, one Christmas, as we were all slumped on the sofa after lunch, it appeared – a 300-page typescript that she fished from the depths of her handbag. I started to read, curious. The first page was so racy and contemporary that I could not stop giggling. The book was so deliciously out of _____ (19). It made me look at my aunt in a totally new light. _____ (20) for Christmas and the rituals of Christmas, I would probably never have seen her hidden depths.

So, as you lie awake at night worrying about what you are going to talk to uncle Ron about, remember he may not be as boring as he seems. The best way to survive your relatives is to learn to appreciate them. Yes, really.

ALTHOUGH	HOST	STRUGGLE
ANY	LET	TAKE
BETTER	LOOKED	THAN
BUT	NAIVELY	THAT
CHARACTER	OFF	THEIR
DREAD	ONE’S	THUS
ELSE	OVER	TIME
FIGHT	QUITE	WILL
FONDLY	RESUMED	

Write your answers here:

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PRACTICE EXERCISE 13

Read the text and complete each blank with **ONE** suitable word from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided on the next page. Each word can only be used **ONCE**. There are **FIVE** words that you will not use. Item 0 is an example.

The modern washing machine has a dozen or more cycles that no one has ever used. The “baby cycle”, for example, or **quoting** (0) from a variety of machines, the “duvet”, “sports”, “bed and bath”, “reduced creases” “allergy” and “freshen up” cycles.

The washing machine is _____ (1) alone in this: all our appliances have learned new tricks. Posh kettles heat our water to a choice of temperatures, tumble dryers offer a variety of “dryness levels” and even fairly basic toasters now _____ (2) boast a “bagel function”. At the top end of the market you can now buy a fridge with a built-in radio and voice recorder, _____ (3) that we’ve reached the stage of combining functions entirely arbitrarily. It has all become a little _____ (4).

Function inflation or “setting creep” – both of _____ (5) are names I’ve just made up – is not confined to the kitchen. We can see it in our computers and cars, our phones and televisions, and, in its _____ (6) form, in a top-of-the-range Swiss Army knife, complete with a “fish scaler”, a “chisel” and a “pressurised ballpoint pen”. But is the surreal image of a war fought using descaled fish in Switzerland really progress? Or are all these settings _____ (7) getting in our way?

“Fundamentally” says David Mattin, lead strategist at trendwatching.com, “function inflation is one consequence of the _____ (8) increasing consumer thirst for the new (new products, services, brands, and yes, new functionality and features), and the way brands and businesses typically respond to that thirst.”

“Throwing more functions and features on to an essentially standard product is one easy way _____ (9) brands to serve the consumer demand for new, more, and better. It allows them to constantly iterate and essentially relaunch the same product with new features, and _____ (10) that the product is new.”

And, in the kitchen at least, things are moving a little too fast, and rampant function hyperinflation has left many of us staring, uncomprehending, _____ (11) a washing machine with more cycles than we have outfits to wash.

In theory, all _____ (12) functions must be a response to consumer demand: if a washing machine has a “freshen up” cycle, it is because in a focus group somewhere at least a couple of people piped up: “I want my clothes fresher, but not cleaned”. And _____ (13) these demanding shoppers are in fact a small minority: research shows that 70% of people use the same wash cycle every time, and nearly half of us are put off by complex multi-setting controls. What consumers want is convenience and simplicity. When industry _____ (14) into trouble is when they add these extra functions and consumers just get perplexed _____ (15) to how actually use them.

_____ (16) Apple’s app store is now a fast-moving bastion of user-controlled function inflation, the iPhone and iPad’s predecessor began life as a reaction against it. “The iPod”, says Mattin, “is a now-legendary example of a tech product that was beautiful in its _____ (17). Compare earlier MP3 players, laden with various buttons and switches and features, with the iPod’s click wheel”.

“There is good evidence”, he argues, “that the marketplace rewards designers who edit a product down until it does just what it _____ (18), and no more. But it takes designers of genius. Mediocre designers just throw more functionality at consumers and see what sticks”.

Perhaps, then, despite the current _____ (19), the ideal household gadget of the future may one day sport a single, simple button marked “Sort this stuff out for me, _____ (20) you?”. The machines can work out for themselves when, if ever, we merely want our clothes freshened up.

ABOUT	JUST	SUCH
ARGUE	OVERWHELMING	THOUGH
AS	PROUDLY	TO
AT	PROVING	TREND
BECOMES	PUREST	WHICH
DESPITE	QUOTING	WHOSE
EVER	RUNS	WILL
FOR	SHOULD	YET
HARDLY	SIMPLICITY	

Write your answers here:

0.	QUOTING
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PRACTICE EXERCISE 14

Read the text and complete each blank with **ONE** suitable word from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided on the next page. Each word can only be used **ONCE**. There are **FIVE** words that you will not use. Item 0 is an example.

Artificial intelligence: clever friend or cunning foe?

In 1900, 40% of the US labour force worked in agriculture. In 1960, after the process of mechanization, the **figure** (0) was a few per cent. And yet most people had jobs, _____ (1) the nature of the jobs had changed. People adapted because humans have cognitive skills – we can learn to do new things. However, that might not always be the _____ (2) as machines get smarter and smarter. The combination of robotics and artificial intelligence is advancing quickly, but how much impact will it have on jobs, and on society?

Carl Benedikt Frey, technology and employment expert, doesn't like to be labelled a "doomsday predictor". He points out that even _____ (3) some jobs are being replaced, new ones spring up that focus more on services and interaction with and between people. "The _____ (4)-growing occupations are all related to services, like Zumba instructor and personal trainer."

Robotisation has reduced the number of working hours needed to make things; but at the same time as workers have been laid off from production lines, new jobs have been created _____ (5), many of them more creative and less dirty. So _____ (6), fears of mass layoffs as the machines take _____ (7) have proven almost as _____ (8) as those that have always accompanied other great technological leaps forward.

In the future, we may have to figure out how to live in an economy of radical abundance, where machines do everything, and we have plenty of leisure time. _____ (9), we might be part of the way there _____ (10); is a dance fitness programme like Zumba anything more than adult play? But a _____ (11) lifestyle also means you have to think about a universal income – some kind of basic, _____ (12) state support.

There are important objections to this reassuring picture, however. On the one hand, the potential for automation is expanding – but technology doesn't create as many new jobs now compared to the past. In the 1980s in the US, 8.2% of the _____ (13) were employed in new technologies introduced in that decade. For the future, Oxford scholars Frey and Osborne's _____ (14) is just 0.5%. There will be people who own the AI*, and _____ (15) own everything else. Which means Homo sapiens will be _____ (16) into a handful of 'gods', and then the rest of us. The rise of the machines may generate huge economic benefits; but _____ (17) it is carefully managed, those gains may be captured by shareholders. The relatively low-skilled factory workers who have been displaced by robots are _____ (18) the same people who land up as app developers or analysts, and technological progress is already being blamed for exacerbating inequality, leaving some groups out in the _____ (19).

Perhaps the biggest problem is that there has been so little examination of the social effects of AI. And technology moves fast; it's hard enough figuring out what happened in the past, let _____ (20) what the future will bring.

*AI: Artificial Intelligence

ALONE	ELSEWHERE	THEREFORE
ALREADY	ESTIMATE	UNCONDITIONAL
ALTHOUGH	FAR	UNFOUNDED
AMOUNT	FASTEST	UNLESS
ARGUABLY	FIGURE	WAY
CASE	OVER	WHILE
COLD	POSTS	WORKFORCE
DESPITE	RARELY	WORKLESS
EARLY	SPLIT	

Write your answers here:

0.	FIGURE
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